

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller

SUBJECT: Report by Bureau of the Budget on "Review of Overseas Personnel Practices in Certain Far East Countries"

REFERENCE: Memo from ADD/S dtd 10 April 58; subject; as above
(DD/S 58-1357)

1. As an overall observation, the Budget Bureau report brings into relief the problems which, in the Agency's own experience, most deserve attention in order to strengthen overseas administrative activity. A number of these problems are dependent upon legislative action for solution. As perhaps you know, this Agency has already expressed to the Bureau of the Budget our feeling that enactment of the Overseas Employees Fringe Benefits Bill and of the Overseas Employees Health and Medical Services Bill would be of definite benefit to us, notwithstanding the fact that many of the provisions of these bills are already being exercised by this Agency. The uniform policies and procedures which would be established by these statutes would materially lessen some of the difficulties now resulting from the different administrative programs encountered by our personnel under varying official cover arrangements.

2. This Office fully concurs in the recommendation that the Government acquire control on a long-term basis of additional housing units in order to overcome the problems of short supply and unreasonable rents now frequently encountered. Even though this Agency were to pursue such an approach on a more generalized basis than now, unless such procedures were adopted by other agencies the personnel of this Agency would tend in time to be spotlighted.

3. We would recommend that this Agency strongly endorse the proposal that the duration of overseas tours be lengthened, except (as the Bureau report itself suggests) for posts such as those in SE Asia.

4. It is our feeling that there may be a good deal of merit in the idea mentioned in the report to the effect that a program of government auto rentals overseas be set up in lieu of paying auto transportation costs for individual employees, and that the suggested study along these lines should be encouraged. In some instances, the transactions manipulated by personnel concerning the purchase and sale of their autos has engaged a disproportionate amount of their time and attention, and has adversely reacted upon relationships with foreign citizens involved.

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Additionally it would obviate problems in some areas where import charges superimposed upon transportation costs involves the expenditure of large sums of money by the government for personnel who ship their own autos.

5. It is believed that the favorable views expressed in the report to rest and rehabilitation trips for personnel stationed at posts such as [REDACTED] may properly be interpreted by the Agency as endorsement of the programs we have recently established for these purposes.

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/s/ Gordon M. Stewart

Gordon M. Stewart
Director of Personnel

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